

**IN SUPPORT OF THE FARM LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE'S
BOYCOTT OF MT. OLIVE PICKLES**

Resolution adopted by General Synod 22, July 1999

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a long history of support for farm workers in their quest for justice and dignity, including past boycotts of lettuce, Campbell's products, and a continuing boycott of non-union California grapes;

WHEREAS, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO (FLOC), is organizing the migrant farm workers who harvest the crop for the Mt. Olive Pickle Co. of Mt. Olive, North Carolina, and more than 2,000 of these workers have signed union authorization cards;

WHEREAS, the only way these workers can improve their lives and achieve the dignity they deserve is to win union representation and negotiate a fair contract;

WHEREAS, FLOC's organizing drive is supported by more than 60 organizations such as the national AFL-CIO, the National Council of Churches, the National Farm Worker Ministry, the North Carolina AFL-CIO, the North Carolina Council of Churches, and local organizations and churches across the United States;

WHEREAS, Mt. Olive Co. CEO, William Bryan, as a leader in this industry, has the ability to recognize FLOC and bargain a contract to improve the lives of the workers who harvest his crops but to date has steadfastly refused to do so;

WHEREAS, the only resource left these workers is to appeal to the American people's spirit of fairness and justice, and urge them to join the boycott, launched by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee on March 17, of Mt. Olive Co. products;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to support FLOC in its efforts to organize a union among North Carolina farm workers in order to bring a greater measure of justice and dignity to those who work in the agricultural industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Twenty-second General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to boycott all Mt. Olive Pickle Co. products until such time as a contract is signed between the FLOC and the Company, and to write to Mt. Olive Co. CEO William Bryan informing him of the same. (Address letters to: William Bryan, CEO, Mt. Olive Pickle Co., P.O. Box 609, Mt. Olive NC 28365. Send copies to: Baldemar Velásquez, President, FLOC, 1221Broadway, Toledo OH 43609.)

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.